

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

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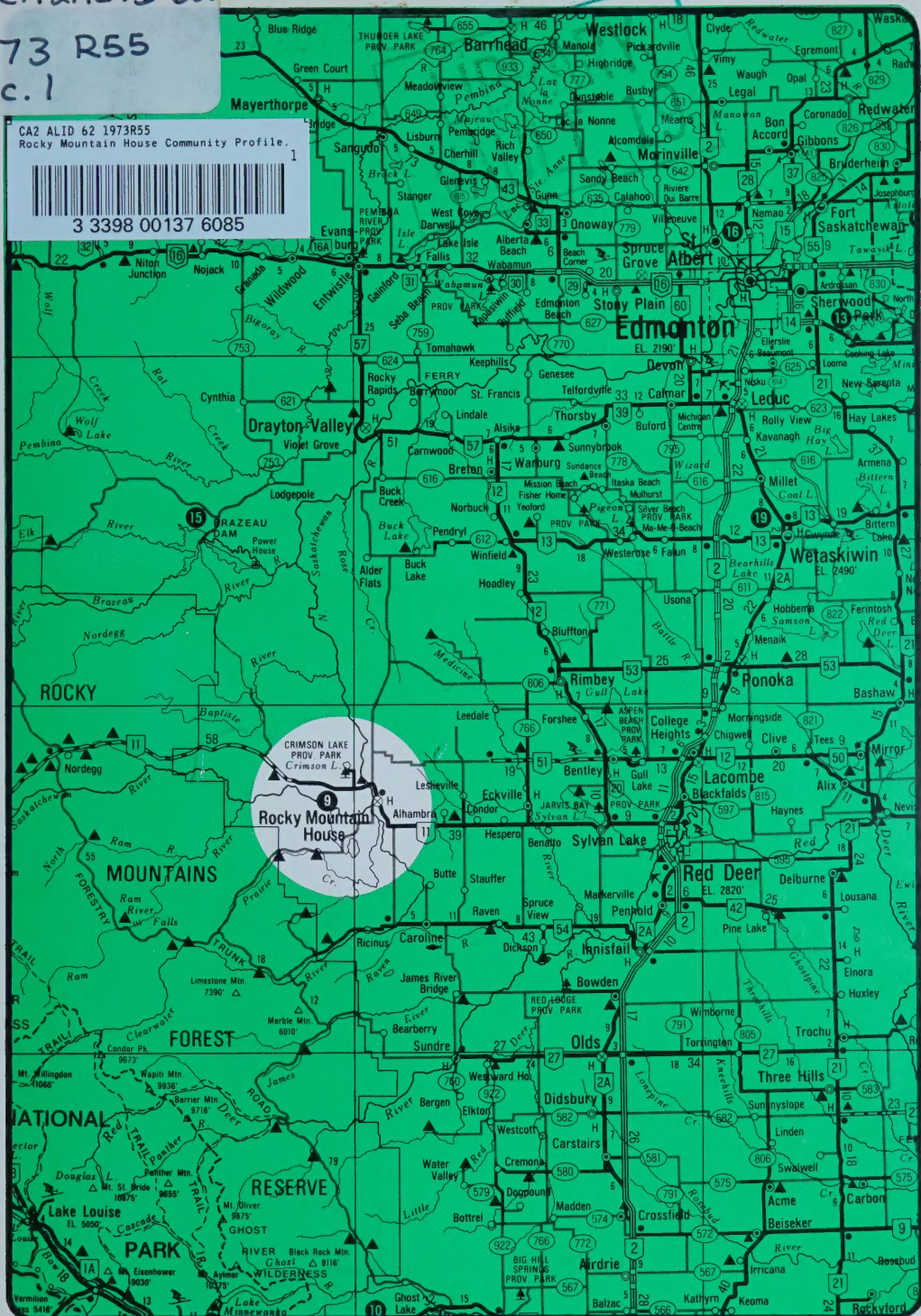
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Rocky Mountain House Community Profile.



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Alberta

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE COMMUNITY PROFILE

February 1973



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AN INTRODUCTION

Location

In the province of Alberta, at 52/21 north latitude and 114/58 west longitude. Located near the confluence of the Clearwater and North Saskatchewan rivers, the town is centered on the NE ¼ of section 22, township 39, range 7, west of the fifth meridian. In terms of highway miles this is about 50 miles west of Red Deer; 140 miles northwest of Calgary or 140 miles southwest of Edmonton.

The town's altitude is 3,330 feet at the intersection of Main St. and highway No. 11 (52nd Ave.).

Population

Town (1971 census) 3,153

Trading area * 10,250

*Extends 20 miles north, south and east and 100 miles west.

Weather

Mean summer temperature: 54 degrees F.

Mean winter temperature: 25 degrees F.

Mean annual temperature: 37 degrees F.

Average rainfall: 14.51 inches.

Average snowfall: 56.9 inches: 20.2 inches.

Soil

Vegetation: The native vegetation changes from a parkland type to the east of Rocky Mountain House with heavy coniferous forest in the west. The parkland vegetation is characterized by grassland country interspersed with aspen, poplar and willow groves. Spruce and pine may be found along stream courses, on sand hills and around marshy areas.

The vegetation gradually changes as one proceeds west and at the town of Rocky the forest type predominates. It consists of aspen and black poplar, birch, spruce, and pine. As one proceeds still further to the west the percentage of spruce and pine increases. Wild fruit, such as raspberry, blueberry and low bush cranberry grow in abundance and some saskatoons, pincheberries, chokecherries and strawberries are to be found throughout the area. Black spruce, dwarf birch and tamarack (i.e larch) are found on the organic soils of low lying land.

Soil Profile: Grey wooded soils dominate the wooded areas. The leaf litter that collects in the forest decomposes quite rapidly and the soluble materials are carried well down into the profile by the relatively heavy amounts of



"Welcome" sign proclaims town as "Gateway to the West".

rainfall. A grey leached soil results. In low lying areas organic soils are present.

Fertility: Soils in the Rocky Mountain House area are not as fertile as in many other parts of Alberta. The soils are variable but tend to be low in nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulphur. However, fertilization and crop rotation with grasses and legumes improves the fertility and the productivity of the soil is very good and is increasing.

Land Use: As inferred above the land is best managed when forages are included in the rotation. Pasture and forage crops are among the most productive in Alberta and as a result our livestock industry is flourishing. Beef cattle predominate but a lot of dairy and hog facilities are present. There are some sheep and horses.

History

Rocky Mountain House was for many years the richest fur producing area in the Northwest, shipping annually great bales of otter, sable, cross fox and many other common furs.

In 1799 James Bird arrived with a party of "Voyageurs" to establish the first trading post for the North-West Fur Company. David

Thompson made the fort at Rocky Mountain House his headquarters in 1801 and 1802 while exploring and mapping for the North-West Fur Company, returning in 1806-07 to complete his work.

During its stormy history, the fort was burned to the ground by Indians three times, but was rebuilt by traders each time until the decline of furs forced the abandonment of the post in 1869.

About 1900 the first land hungry settlers started drifting in. Resourceful homesteaders established major industries in mine props, railroad ties, fence posts and telegraph poles, and more recently power line poles.

Fifty years ago the CNR and ACR raced one another from Red Deer to the Brazeau coal fields. The year that the CNR steel reached the North Saskatchewan River, the Rocky Mountain House Townsite Co. was formed, purchasing the Bertrand homestead. The townsite was laid out in 1912 and town records date from that year.

Historic Site

Fort Rocky Mountain House and old chimneys and historical display.

LIVEABILITY



One of Rocky Mountain House's attractive residential areas.

Rocky is a picturesque town with spruce and poplar trees lining several of the streets. The dwellings are modern and approximately 90 per cent are owner occupied.

The business section is separated from the industrial area by the No. 11 highway which runs north and south through the eastern portion of the town.

Recreational and religious facilities are numerous.

The town operates a recreational building, housing the recreation office and handi-

craft centre. For the sportsman there is good fishing and hunting.

Total area of the town is 997 acres, with 95 acres in parks and playgrounds.

Rocky Mountain House has 4.10 miles of paved streets including three miles of provincial highway within the town limits. There are 13.07 miles of gravelled roads and streets, and 5.5 miles of gravelled lanes.

There are approximately 10½ miles of cement sidewalks.



Rocky's business section provides all shopping services.

ADMINISTRATION

Civic Government

The town is governed by a mayor and six councillors, elected for a three-year term. The secretary-treasurer administers the affairs of the town according to the policies set by council.

Tax Structure

Assessment:	1961	1971
Land value	238,220	1,027,600
Improvements	1,394,950	2,813,560
Business	302,760	452,840
Power &		
Pipeline	22,486	57,560
Total	\$1,958,416	\$4,368,390
Dominion Government in Lieu of Taxes:		
Land	2,520	8,840
Improvements	11,750	36,560

Provincial Government in Lieu of Taxes:

Land	7,870.	34,930
Improvements	22,660	234,340
Total	\$2,003,216	\$4,683,060

Mill Rates:

Municipal & Debentures	44
School Foundation and	
School supplementary	19
Hospital	2
Other (Aux. Hospital-Health	
Unit-Lodge, etc.)	
Total	65
Municipal & Debentures	42.4
School Foundation	26.5
School Supplementary	2.5
Hospital	Nil
Other (Aux. Hospital	
Health Unit-Lodge, etc.)	3.6
Total	75.0

PROTECTIVE AND UTILITY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

The town has adopted the Short Form Building Code of Canada. All new buildings, repairs to buildings or removal of buildings must be approved by the building inspector after which a permit is issued. Electrical installations must conform to the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act. Sanitary regulations conform to the Alberta Public Health Regulations. Gas installations must conform to the Alberta Gas Protection Act. The town and district is policed by RCMP, four constables for the town and six for highway and rural point duty.

Fire Protection

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief and 20 volunteer firemen.

Equipment: 1 1950 500-GPM pumper with 500 gallon water tank, 1 booster pump, 1,150 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet of 1½ inch hose, 20 feet of 4½ inch suction hose, 1 extension ladder, 1 roof ladder, 1 attic ladder, 2 applicators, 2 wyes, 4 fog nozzles, 2 30-lb. cans dry chemicals, 26 coats, 20 pairs boots, axes, masks, etc. 1968 625-GPM pumper with a 700 gallon water tank, 1 booster pump, 1,200 feet of 2½ inch hose and 600 feet of 1½ inch hose, 1 extension ladder, 1 roof ladder and 2 2½ inch fog nozzles and 2 1½ inch fog nozzles and a 2 20-lb. cans dry chemicals.

Water is obtained from wells near the Saskatchewan River and is pumped into a 50,000 gallon elevated tower. There are 57 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town.

Water and Sewer

Water is obtained from three wells and is pumped into a 50,000 gallon elevated tower.

Water Rates:

First 2,000 gallons or less used per month - \$5.00 minimum charge.

Next 2,500 gallons used per month - \$1.00 per M gallons; 75¢ per M over 4,500 gallons.

Residential rate per month - \$5 flat rate.

Sewer Rates: Based on 65 per cent of water rates.

The town has 1.6 miles of storm sewers; 7.4 miles of sanitary sewers; and 8.6 miles of water mains.

Electric Power

Single phase and three phase power is supplied by Calgary Power Ltd. in secondary voltage desired by the consumer.

Domestic Service:

Monthly minimum charge of \$2.30 per month, including 20 KWH.

The next 280 KWH per month at 1½¢ per KWH.

All KWH over 300 in one month at 1¼¢ per KWH.

Commercial Service:

Available to all commercial establishments not qualifying for domestic service.

Demand charge, \$1.00 per KW of demand per month.

First 40 KWH per KW of demand per month - 5¢ per KWH.

Next 70 KWH per KW of demand per month - 3¢ per KWH but not over 700 KWH per month.

All additional energy used per month at 1½¢ per KWH.

Power Rate:

For large commercial establishments. These rates are contracted for a period of time on an individual basis.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is supplied to the town under a franchise by Northwestern Utilities Limited.

Rate schedule "J" applicable to Rocky Mountain House and branch lines serving the town.

General Rate - Rate No. 1:

Available to all customers;

First 20 therms or less - \$3 per month;

All additional therms - 5¢ per therm;

Minimum monthly charge - \$3.

Optional Rate - Rate No. 2:

Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 13,000 therms.

Fixed charge - \$15 per month;

Plus commodity charge - 3.8¢ per therm;

Minimum monthly charge - \$15.

Rural customers in the Rocky area who are served from Alberta Gas Trunk Lines systems by Northwestern Utilities Ltd. fall under rate schedule "H". The above rates are subject to

regulations from time to time by the Public Utilities Board of the Province of Alberta.

Further information regarding these rates may be obtained by contacting the company. Head office is located at 10040 - 104 St., Edmonton, Alberta.

L. P. Gas

Heat Value - 2,521 btu per cu. ft. at 60 degrees F.

100 lb. cylinders, \$5;

Bulk - 13¢ per gallon;

Storage capacity, 14,000 gallons.

Diesel Fuel

Heat value, 235,000 to 140,000 btu per

gallon at 60 degrees F.

Winter grade - 20.7¢;

Summer grade - 20.7¢;

Storage capacity, 60,000 gallons.

Coal

Readily available, stocked year around; strip coal from Halkirk or Forestburg.

Oiled stoker sells for \$10.80 per ton off the car, \$11.80 from the shed. Cobble (2x6) sells for \$11.50 and \$12.50 per ton.

About 2,200 tons are sold each year.

HEALTH SERVICES



Senior citizens home in attractive setting.

The Rocky Mountain House Municipal Hospital serves the town and area.

Public ward rates are \$25 per day for non-residents or for those who opted out of the Alberta Health Plan. A \$5 admission fee is applicable to insured residents.

There are four doctors, one dentist, a chiropractor and an optometrist. The latter

two set up a clinic twice weekly. The district is also served by one veterinarian clinic. Two drug stores and the Red Deer Health Unit further complement the health facilities of Rocky Mountain House and district.

The Health Unit is opened every Tuesday for immunization and consultation.

EDUCATION

Rocky Mountain House School District No. 2590 is a part of the Rocky Mountain House Division No. 15.

Grades 1-6 are taught in two elementary schools, and grades 7-12 in a large modern Junior-Senior High School. Various optional programs are taught including music, art, french, drama, home economics, commercial courses and a complete shop will be in operation in September offering such subjects as woodwork, metal work, plastics, photography, lapidary, welding, printing, and electricity.

Grades Teachers Pupils

Lochearn Elementary	1-6	9	260
Rocky Elementary	1-6	26	668
Rocky Junior-Senior High		31	662
Junior	7-9		(398)
Senior	10-12		(264)
			1,590



Educational facilities include these two schools.



ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION



Several churches serve the spiritual needs of the community.

Churches

Christian Reformed Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Church, Church of the Nazarene, Full Gospel Church, Seventh Day Adventist Church, St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church.

Organizations

Kinsmen Club, Masonic Lodge, I.O.O.F., Orange Lodge, W.I., I.O.D.E., Lions Club, Royal Canadian Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Ladies' Auxiliary to the Royal Canadian Legion, Hospital Auxiliary, Eastern Star, Rebecca Lodge;

Art Club, Community Choir, creative dance, Barbershoppers, Little Theatre, Rocky Gem and Rock Club, ladies sewing classes, Whirl-a-way Square Dance Club, Jeunesses Musicales, Golf Club, Baseline Ski Club, Curling Club, Bowling Club, Rod and Gun Club, Tennis Club, Flying Club, Foothills Fastball League, Ladies Fastball, men's basketball, ladies' basketball, men's keep fit, ladies' keep fit, T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), Rocky Lighthouse Association, Figure Skating Club, Scouts, Cubs, Brownies, Girl Guides, Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps, Minor-Fastball-Baseball Association, Teen Club, Community Assistance Bureau, Hospital Auxiliary, Oilmen's Association, Oilwives, Kinettes, K-40 Club, Emergency Measures Organization, Red

Cross Society, Rocky Old Timers Reunion Association, Rocky Snowmobile Club, 4-H Clubs (beef, dairy, horse), Leo Club, hospital catering service.

Cultural Activities

Memorial Public library, operated by local I.O.D.E. Open Fridays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. There are between 6,000 and 8,000 books — some supplied by Parkland Regional Library. All library help is voluntary.

Rocky Art Club, Rocky Little Theatre, Community Choir, Barbershoppers, Twisted Braid (Rock Band) and Whirl-a-way Square Dance Club are other cultural activities.

Youth Activities

Boys: Boy Scouts, Wolf Cubs, Sea Cadets, youth clubs and 4-H clubs.

Girls: Girl Guides, Brownies, youth clubs and 4-H Clubs.

Sports

Rams Hockey Club, Minor Hockey Association, Figure Skating Club, Baseline Mt. Ski Club, Rod and Gun Club, Legion Boxing Club, Badminton Club, Curling Club.

Facilities: Major sports complex includes: Kinsmen youth center, concession and large lobby, men's and ladies' wash rooms, indoor ice arena (capacity 850), public address

system, small craft room, four dressing rooms with adjacent showers and rest rooms, one senior hockey club storage room, ice making plant, curling facilities (4 sheets), curling lounge, curling club parking area (16 cars), general parking area (200 cars); quarter mile clay and sawdust race track, 120 yard infield for general purpose, natural forest cover picnic area, 4/10 mile race track with rodeo infield, set of bleachers (capacity 500), 4 concession booths, dance hall, Dutch Centennial Park area with wind-mill.

Memorial Center: — Old arena building, outdoor rink, heated arena shelter, tennis courts (standard), joint development of school and recreation grounds.

Tot-lots: — Kinsmen tot-lot, Lions tot-lot, Community tot-lot and Daye property tot-lot.

Parks—Centennial Park

Joint recreation developments: — Rocky Elementary School grounds, Lochearn Elementary School grounds.

Out-of-town recreation leases: — Rocky Scouts Association, Twin Lakes camping area, Baseline Mountain skiing facilities, Rocky Rod and Gun rifle range.

Annual Events

Rocky's annual Stampede is held June 30

and July 1. A parade is held on the first day of celebrations.

Rocky Mountain House and District Chamber of Commerce also host an annual David Thompson Cavalcade and Indian Days on the first long weekend in August. This annual outdoor camp-out is held on the Kootenay Plains about 100 miles west of Rocky Mountain House on the David Thompson Highway.

Other annual events are the bull sale in March, the Light Horse Association's gymkhana, Snowmobile Association's race, and the 4-H beef and cattle show which is rotated throughout the district.

Theatres, Halls, Auditoriums

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Lux Theatre	363	Yes	No
Masonic Hall	150	No	Yes
Orange Hall	80	No	Yes
Arena (Main Hall)	250	No	Yes
(Youth Center)	150	No	Yes
Arena Seating Capacity	850	No	No
Elementary School Aud.	500	Yes	Yes
Jr. Sr. High Aud. #1	400	No	Yes
Jr. Sr. High Aud. #2	400	Yes	Yes
Lochearn Aud.	300	Yes	Yes



Arena and curling rink complex is a modern recreational facility.

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES



Federal Building and Post Office.

Government Offices

Federal: Post Office with three rural route deliveries, R.C.M.P. rural and urban detachments, Indian Agency, Metecrological Station, National Health and Welfare, Indian Health Services.

Provincial: District Agriculturist, Court House, Highways and Transport, Lands and Forests, Fish & Wildlife Div., Alberta Forestry Service, Clearwater Forest Reserve Headquarters, Municipal Affairs, Social Development, Treasury Branch, Liquor Store, Alberta Government Telephones (business office, Red Deer).

Municipal: Town Administration Office housing council chamber, secretary treasurer and staff; Fire Hall with two fire trucks, fire chief and 21-member volunteer fire brigade; Police Station manned by urban R.C.M.P. detachment; public works shop and foreman's office, Recreation Centre with the recreation director's office, Rocky Mountain House School Division No. 15 with superintendent and administrative offices.

Financial Facilities

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Bank of Nova Scotia, Provincial Treasury Branch, Credit Union.

Travel Accommodation

Hotels: David Thompson, 30 rooms, \$4.50

to \$8, licensed tavern; Mount View Hotel, 37 rooms, \$5.50 to \$11, licensed tavern, cocktail lounge and dining lounge.

Motels: Walking Eagle, 18 rooms, \$8.50 to \$12; Alpine, 10 units, \$8.50 to \$12; Art's Motel, seven units, \$5 to \$8. The House Motel, 12 units, \$9 to \$12; Voyager, 12 units, \$8.50 to \$12.

Tourist Camps: Centennial Park accommodates trailers and tents. There are seven fully modern trailer parks — South Side, Walking Eagle, Rocky, North End, Sportsman, Evergreen, and Kilian's.

Transportation

Canadian Pacific and Canadian National Railways and Merchandise Truck Services. Two taxi firms, 3 cabs; one 5,000 foot air strip; Coachways Bus Lines, two daily trips to Red Deer and all connections. There are numerous trucking services with daily services to Red Deer, Calgary and Edmonton. Christenson's Ambulance Service.

Communications

Alberta Government Telephones, Post Office.

Media

Newspaper: The Mountaineer (published weekly on Wednesdays).

Radio: Reception from Red Deer, Calgary,

Edmonton and Camrose stations.

Television: Reception from Red Deer,
Calgary and Edmonton stations.

Co-operatives

Rocky Mountain House and District
Savings and Credit Union Ltd., Rocky Moun-
tain House Co-op Association Ltd. building,
petroleum and feed supplies.

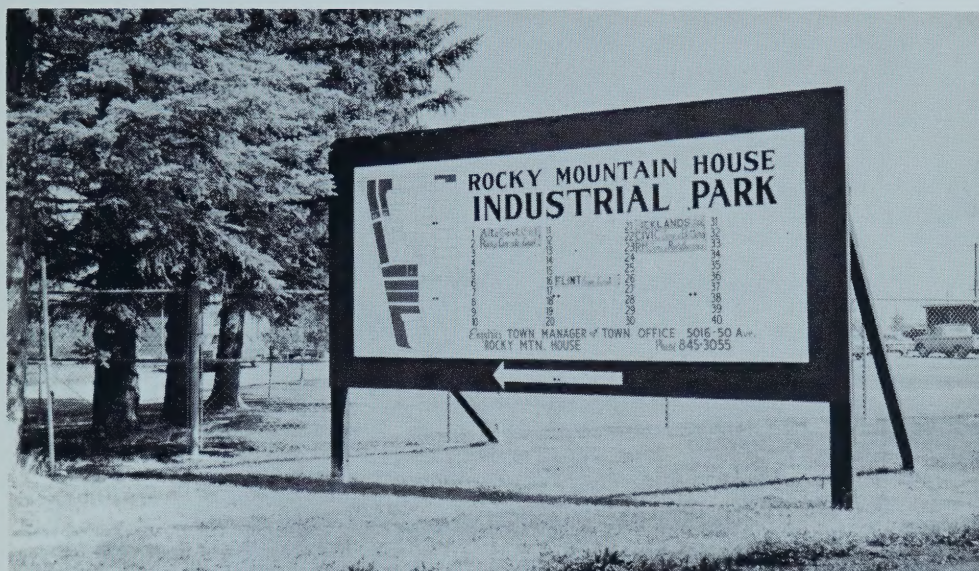
Business Establishments

Type of Business	No. of Establishments
Accountants	4
Auctioneers	2
Auction Mart	1
Auto Body Repairs	3
Auto Electric	2
Auto Painting	3
Ambulance Services	1
Auto Wreckers	1
Bakery	2
Banks	4
Barbers	3
Beauty Parlors	3
Beauty College	1
Blacksmith	1
Butchers	1
Bowling Alley	1
Chiropractor	2
Cartage Delivery	1
Heavy Duty Cartage Hauling	8
Men's Clothing	4
Clothing Women and Children	4
Contractors	18
Co-op Shopping Center	1
Creamery	1
Car Wash	3
Concrete mix	1
Dentist	1
Doctors	4
Drug Stores	2
Dry Cleaning	4
Drive-In Restaurants	2
Equipment Rentals	1
Electrical Appliances	9
Electrical Contractors	1
Flower Shop	1
Funeral Parlour	2
Furniture Stores	5

Garage Service Station	12
General Stores	3
Greenhouse	1
Groceries	4
Gunsmith	1
Guide & Outfitters	8
Hotels	2
Hardware Stores	4
Insurance & Real Estate	6
Jewellers	2
Lawyers	2
Liquor Vendors	1
Laundry	2
Livestock Buyers	2
Lumber yards	3
Liquor Lounge	1
Licensed Dinning Rooms	2
Mail Order Offices	2
Motels	5
Machine Shops	2
Mobile Steamers	1
Notaries	2
Oil Distributors	5
Optometrist	1
Oilfield Equipment	10
Painters & Decorators	2
Plumbers	4
Pool Hall	1
Planers Mills	3
Printers	1
Propane Distributors	3
Restaurants	10
Sewing Centre	1
Sheet Metal	3
Shoe Repair	1
Shoe Stores	5
Sporting Goods	6
TV Repair Shops	2
Taxi Service	2
Tire Service	3
Trailer Courts	8
Tailors	2
Theatres	1
Variety Stores	2
Veterinarians	2
Watch Repairs	2
Woodworking	2
Wholesale Supplies & Industries	2
Welding Shops & Contractors	7
Wood & Post treating plants	1

Note: Some of the establishments men-
tioned may not be full time or contain a
full line of goods and are handled in com-
bination with other goods and services.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT



Serviced sites are available in industrial park.

Sites

Residential and industrial sites with all utilities, trackage and highway facilities can be purchased from private owners or the Town through local real estate offices at market or set prices.

Resources

Coarse grains and forage crops; cattle, horses and sheep; dairy products, poultry products, honey; sand and gravel, water, oil, natural gas, sulphur and other oil by-products, coal, peat moss; lumber, posts, pulpwood.

Other industrial minerals, some in large quantities, some reported but quantities unknown, are limestone, exposures of volcanic ash, phosphate, silica sand, clay and shale.

Current and Potential Development

Rocky District L.I.D. 10 has a viable agriculture industry of 730 farms, based primarily on mixed farming. The topography and weather make it possible for a farmer to grow very heavy forage and cereal crops while he can utilize cheaper land for pasture.

Cow-calf operations show the largest dollar return. There are few specialized farms in this area, however the accumulative totals for dairy and hog production is rather impressive. There are a few purebred beef herds in the area.

An auction mart in Town and several more within the area of a 50 mile radius, as well as packing plants, make daily marketing possible.

Forest products have always been a major industry in the area with several large planer-mills complimented by many smaller independent contractors. Poles and posts are also sold in large quantities. A pulp mill could be established in this area in the near future.

Oil and gas discoveries during the last decade have attracted many persons to this area. Several gas plants are already in existence. Large quantities of sulphur are located in this area.

Vast quantities of coal to the west are expected to be marketable again in the not to distant future. Tourism is a growing industry with many more people discovering the beauty and enjoyment of the many natural parks in the area. Improved roads and the David Thompson Highway connected to the Banff Jasper Highway will make the tourist industry a major one, adding to the diversity that already exists. Good highways connecting Rocky Mountain House with Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary, improving access to the west, including British Columbia, 2 railways, plenty of gas, power, water, coal, etc. will contribute to the growth of industry and community.



Lumbering is an important factor in Rocky area economy.

Enquiries

Enquiries about Rocky Mountain House
should be directed to:

Economic Development Committee,
Town of Rocky Mountain House

& District,

P. O. Box 1865,

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

TOM 1T0

Telephone: 845-3655 (Secretary)

or

Town Office,

Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Telephone: 845-3055.

